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Dr. Joshua Lederberg The Rockefeller University 1230 York Avenue New York, NY 10021

Dear Josh:

Many thanks for sending information on the early cultures of K-12 wildtype. This was very helpful.

Bruce Stocker just called today to say that they have one old lyophil of K-12 remaining in the collection at Stanford. Lyophilization came along rather late in the day. Nevertheless, I cautioned him not to let anyone open it for trivial reasons. He is going to send me a transfer of their present vegetative stock.

Many persons now working in the field do not have any training in microbiology and don't realize that vegetative cultivation of a bacterium on various media for 70 years in the laboratory could very well lead to an organism that differs significantly from the original isolate. It would not be surprising if different tubes of K-12 carried different mutations. At Stanford they now cultivate it on nutrient agar slants (not even stabs, apparently) and have done so since anyone there now can remember. I don't know when "nutrient agar" was first "invented" nor whether the formula for this medium has changed over the years since it was first concocted.

Maybe someone who is really good will be willing to look into this carefully some day. We have 4 lyophils of WG1, three of them dated 1951. I'm not going to open them unless someone has a very good idea of what to do with them.

Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Bachmann

Barbara

Curator, E. coli Genetic Stock Center

BJB/bac